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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A hard-drawn steel wire comprising:

C: 0.5-0.7mass% (hereinafter, referred to as %),

Si: 1.0-1.95%,

Mn: 0.5-1.5%, and

Cr: 0.5-1.5%,

Fe and inevitable impurities,

said wire further comprising 5 particles/ $100\mu\text{m}^2$ or less of carbides wherein the circle-equivalent diameters of the carbides are $0.1\mu\text{m}$ or more.

Claim 12 (New): The steel wire according to claim 1, further comprising 0.05-0.5% of Ni.

Claim 13 (New): The steel wire according to claim 1, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 14 (New): The steel wire according to claim 2, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 15 (New): A hard-drawn spring produced by the process comprising:
coiling the steel wire according to claim 1 to form said spring.

Claim 16 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 15, wherein the difference derived by subtracting (R_-) from (R_+) is 500 MPa or less,

wherein (R_+) is a residual stress on an inner surface of said spring, and (R_-) is a residual stress on an outer surface of said spring.

Claim 17 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 16, wherein the inner and outer surface is subjected to a shot peening treatment two times or more.

Claim 18 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 17, wherein the difference derived by subtracting (R_{s-}) from (R_{s+}) is 300 MPa or less,

wherein (R_{s+}) is a residual stress on an inner surface after being subjected to said shot peening treatment, and (R_{s-}) is a residual stress on an outer surface after being subjected to said shot peening treatment.

Claim 19 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 15, wherein the spring a surface with a maximum roughness height R_y of 10 μm or less.

Claim 20 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 15, wherein the spring has a surface subjected to a nitriding treatment.

Claim 21 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 15, wherein the ratio of D/d is 9.0 or less, wherein D is the coil diameter of said spring, and d is the wire diameter of said spring.

Claim 22 (New): A hard-drawn spring produced by the process comprising:

coiling the steel wire according to claim 2 to form said spring.

Claim 23 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 22, wherein the difference derived by subtracting (R_-) from (R_+) is 500 MPa or less,

wherein (R_+) is a residual stress on an inner surface of said spring, and (R_-) is a residual stress on an outer surface of said spring.

Claim 24 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 23, wherein the inner and outer surface is subjected to a shot peening treatment two times or more.

Claim 25 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 24, wherein the difference derived by subtracting (R_{s-}) from (R_{s+}) is 300 MPa or less,

wherein (R_{s+}) is a residual stress on an inner surface after being subjected to said shot peening treatment, and (R_{s-}) is a residual stress on an outer surface after being subjected to said shot peening treatment.

Claim 26 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 22, wherein the spring a surface with a maximum roughness height R_y of 10 μm or less.

Claim 27 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 22, wherein the spring has a surface subjected to a nitriding treatment.

Claim 28 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 22, wherein the ratio of D/d is 9.0 or less, wherein D is the coil diameter of said spring, and d is the wire diameter of said spring.

Claim 29 (New): A hard-drawn spring produced by the process comprising:
coiling the steel wire according to claim 13 to form said spring.

Claim 30 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 29, wherein the
difference derived by subtracting (R_-) from (R_+) is 500 MPa or less,
wherein (R_+) is a residual stress on an inner surface of said spring, and (R_-) is a
residual stress on an outer surface of said spring.

Claim 31 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 30, wherein the inner and
outer surface is subjected to a shot peening treatment two times or more.

Claim 32 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 31, wherein the
difference derived by subtracting (R_{s-}) from (R_{s+}) is 300 MPa or less,
wherein (R_{s+}) is a residual stress on an inner surface after being subjected to said shot
peening treatment, and (R_{s-}) is a residual stress on an outer surface after being subjected to
said shot peening treatment.

Claim 33 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 29, wherein the spring a
surface with a maximum roughness height R_y of 10 μm or less.

Claim 34 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 29, wherein the spring
has a surface subjected to a nitriding treatment.

Claim 35 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 29, wherein the ratio of D/d is 9.0 or less, wherein D is the coil diameter of said spring, and d is the wire diameter of said spring.

Claim 36 (New): A hard-drawn spring produced by the process comprising:
coiling the steel wire according to claim 14 to form said spring.

Claim 37 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 36, wherein the difference derived by subtracting (R_-) from (R_+) is 500 MPa or less,
wherein (R_+) is a residual stress on an inner surface of said spring, and (R_-) is a residual stress on an outer surface of said spring.

Claim 38 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 37, wherein the inner and outer surface is subjected to a shot peening treatment two times or more.

Claim 39 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 38, wherein the difference derived by subtracting (R_{s-}) from (R_{s+}) is 300 MPa or less,
wherein (R_{s+}) is a residual stress on an inner surface after being subjected to said shot peening treatment, and (R_{s-}) is a residual stress on an outer surface after being subjected to said shot peening treatment.

Claim 40 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 36, wherein the spring a surface with a maximum roughness height R_y of 10 μm or less.

Claim 41 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 36, wherein the spring has a surface subjected to a nitriding treatment.

Claim 42 (New): The hard-drawn spring according to claim 36, wherein the ratio of D/d is 9.0 or less, wherein D is the coil diameter of said spring, and d is the wire diameter of said spring.